

LETTER- JULY 1, 1775 Probably written by James Smith for York County's Committee of Safety, to Continental Congress. Ink on laid paper. Gift of Donald A. Shelley in memory of Clyde Shelley. (00734.001.067)

Gentlemen

We had the Honour of receiving your favour of the 15th Inst. inclosing a Resolve of the Honourable Continental Congress of the 14th Instant.

We immediately summon'd the Committee of this County and laid before them your letter. The Committee proceeded to the choice of Officers fit to be recommended to the Congress to command the Company of Rifle-men to be raised; and Appointed six Commissioners to provide necessaries for them. Every Resolve past in Committee with the greatest unanimity, and the gentlemen of Yorktown after the meeting, dispers'd themselves through the County and assisted the officers in Recruiting.

The Spirit of the people on this occasion gave the Committee infinite pleasure - The men seemed actuated with the greatest zeal and thought themselves honour'd in having their names inroll'd among the sons of Liberty who are to fight for their Country and in defence of their dearest Rights of Privileges. The only uneasiness they feel is that they are not this moment at the Scene of Action; from the Spirit of the Soldiers we entertain the most flattering Hopes that they will prove serviceable to the Cause of Liberty, and reflect Honour on this Country.

The principal people here have caught the Spirit of the Honble Congress and in their small Circle have done every thing in their power to animate their neighbours to stand forth in this day of dispotism and resist the arbitrary & unjust measures of Parliament with all the power which Heaven has given them and we have the pleasure to inform you that their Labours have not been in Vain, and that this Country is ready to strain every nerve to put into execution any measures which the Congress may judge necessary for our Common defence.

The officers we take the liberty to recommend to you are Capt. Michael Dowdle, Lieuts. Henry Miller, John Dill, John Matson. They are men whose Courage we have the highest opinion of. The Company including officers & Soldiers are beyond the number fix'd for this County, and as General Gates thought it improper to discharge any, we have sent them all.

We request the favour of you that proper Care be taken that none are draughted out of their Company into another. This is the request of the Inhabitants of this County many of them having their dearest friends engage'd in the service, and would not by any means have them taken from their present officers.

We hope no alteration will be made in the officers; The Captain has behaved very well on this occasion, and has done all in his power by advancing money & to forward the important Common Cause. Mr. Miller is known to some of you Gentlemen - the other officers are men of Work and property they have all Wives & families and are intitled to the Warmest Thanks of their Country.

The Commissioners appointed to provide necessaries for the men will forward the accounts as soon as they possibly can. We are Gentm. Your most hum Serv/Jas. Smith/
George Irvin/John Kean/Joseph Donaldson/Tho. Hartley/Michl. Hahn

Yorktown/1 July 1775/The Company began their march (the nearest road to Boston) this day